

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 01780

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: CSCE, GE
SUBJECT: CSCE: GDR COMMENT

REF: 77 BERLIN 8955

1. IN THE FIRST GDR EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON THE
BELGRADE CONFERENCE, THE CSCE MEETING WAS DESCRIBED
AS BEING ON BALANCE A SUCCESS DESPITE ATTEMPTS BY
THE US REPRESENTATIVES AND NATO TO DEFLECT IT FROM
ITS MAIN PURPOSE AND DESPITE THE LACK OF SUBSTANCE
OF THE FINAL DOCUMENTS. AN EDITORIAL IN THE SEMI-
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OFFICIAL FOREIGN POLICY WEEKLY HORIZONT CONCLUDES
THAT THE CONFERENCE FULFILLED ITS CHIEF TASK OF AN
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE
PARTICIPATING NATIONS IN CARRYING OUT THE HELSINKI
FINAL ACT. OTHER ADDITIONAL POSITIVE
FEATURES WERE THAT THE CONFERENCE SELECTED A TIME
AND PLACE FOR THE NEXT MEETING AND AGREED ON A

FINAL DOCUMENT WHICH DID NOT WEAKEN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. THE CONFERENCE CLEARLY AND POSITIVELY ACKNOWLEDGED THE CONTINUATION OF THE PROCESS BEGUN IN HELSINKI AND WAS THEREFORE NOT A FAILURE. WHAT FAILED, HORIZONTAL STATES, WERE THE EFFORTS TO REWRITE THE FINAL ACT. THE ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THESE CONSULTATIONS A "CRUSADE" AGAINST SOCIALISM WERE DEFEATED AND THIS HAS STRENGTHENED SECURITY IN EUROPE.

2. THE ARTICLE DEPICTS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS ATTEMPTING TO DO SERIOUS WORK AT THE CONFERENCE AND AS MAKING CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE. BY CONTRAST, OTHER DELEGATIONS DID NOT SHOW PROPER UNDERSTANDING, OBJECTIVITY OR GOOD WILL. PROPAGANDA SPEECHES, ACCUSATIONS AND EVEN ATTEMPTS AT BLACKMAIL OVERSHADOWED THE CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECTS OF THE DISCUSSION, HORIZONTAL ASSERTS. AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG IS CRITICIZED FOR ATTEMPTING TO FOCUS THE DISCUSSION ON THE CONTENT OF THE FINAL ACT AND WITH TRYING TO PUT INTO WRITING EFFORTS AT INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THE RESULT WAS THAT THE FINAL DOCUMENT FROM BELGRADE HAD NO SUBSTANCE. THIS NEED NOT HAVE BEEN THE CASE HAD THERE BEEN GOOD WILL AND A READINESS TO COMPROMISE THE COMMENTARY CONCLUDES. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. COMMENT. THE THEMES IN THIS COMMENTARY AND ITS OVERALL TONE ARE THE SAME AS THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE GDR MEDIA TREATMENT THROUGHOUT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. DESPITE THE DIRECT REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG, THE CRITICISM OF THE US HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED, AND THE TONE HAS BEEN ONE MORE OF SORROW THAN ANGER.

4. IN A BROADER CONTEXT, WE CONSIDER THAT THE CSCE PROCESS, INCLUDING THE RECENT BELGRADE CONFERENCE, HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ATMOSPHERE IN REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN THE GDR. AMBASSADOR BOLEN REGULARLY RAISES CSCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS WITH GDR LEADERS AND WHILE THEY MAY NOT WELCOME THIS AS AN ISSUE OF DISCUSSION THEY CLEARLY ACCEPT IT AS NORMAL. AS WE NOTED IN REF A, WE BELIEVE THAT THE CSCE PROCESS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO ESTABLISHING A BASIS FOR DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE US. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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